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Senate

California Legislature

JIM BATTIN
SENATOR

THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



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February 25, 2004

The Honorable Mary Bono
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building
1st & Independence Avenue SE, #404
Washington, D.C. 20515

VIA Facsimile: 202-225-5330

Dear Congresswoman *Mary*

Re: Soboba Band of Luisefio Indians Settlement Legislation

I am writing to convey my support for the settlement achieved by the Soboba Band of Luisefio Indians, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Eastern and Lake Hemet Municipal Water Districts, and also for the passage of settlement legislation in the 2nd session of the 108th Congress.

After 10 years of negotiation, assisted by a multi-agency Federal facilitation team, the Tribe and the three districts have an historic settlement that will resolve a multitude of claims, some over a century old, for damages to the Soboba Reservation caused by non-Indian diversions of the Tribe's water rights and - together with a water management plan being developed by the area's non-Indian water users - will protect the water supply of the entire valley from future depletion. Now, the parties need your help to ensure its final approval by Congress.

Under the settlement, the Soboba Tribe would receive:

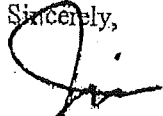
- An adequate and secure future water supply
- \$18 million from the local water districts for economic development
- \$11 million from the United States for water development
- 128 acres of replacement land near the Reservation for commercial development

The settlement also benefits the Tribe's neighbors, who would receive:

- Final resolution of the Tribe's water rights and claims
- 7,500 acre-feet per year of new imported water until at least 2035
- \$10 million in federal funds to help recharge the aquifer with the imported water
- Use of excess Soboba water during the next 50 years for basin restoration
- New jobs and economic stimulation from Soboba commercial development

The settlement will bring to a close more than 120 years of conflict and struggle between the Soboba Tribe and its neighbors over the San Jacinto River basin's water resources. Moreover, it will ensure not only the future of the Tribe, but also the future of the region's water supply for all of the valley's inhabitants. For these reasons, we request your support in passing this important legislation through Congress.

Sincerely,



JIM BATTIN
Senator
37th District

cc: Congressman Jerry Lewis
Chairman Robert Salgado, Sr, Soboba Band of Luisefio Indians